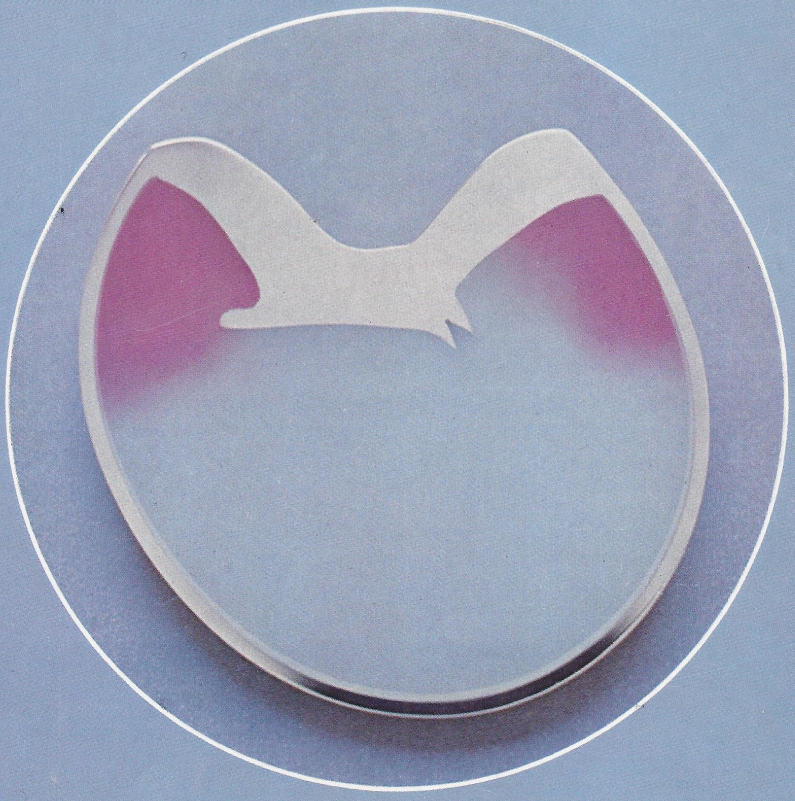
crafts

No 25 March/April 1977 45p

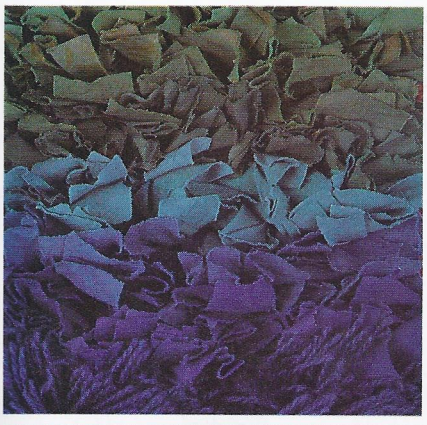


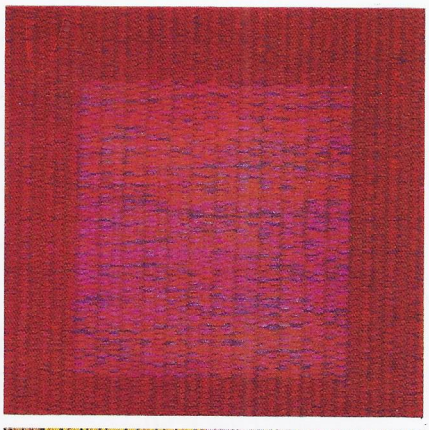
Susanna Heron Rugs for Churches

Rugs for churches

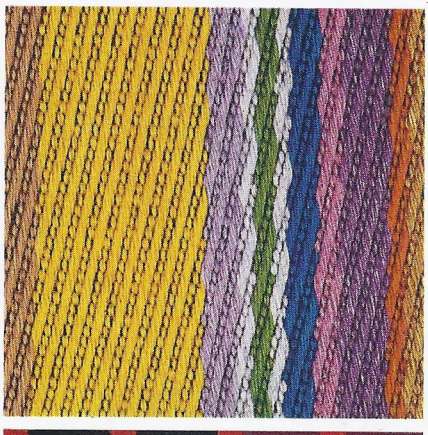
The Crafts Advisory Committee has commissioned seven weavers from its Index to make kneelers for seven churches and cathedrals around the country. After being exhibited at Waterloo Place and the foyer of the National Theatre, they will be presented to the churches, together with framed inscriptions by Harry Meadows, to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.
Photographs of the rugs, in their early stages, by Richard Davies. Drawings of the churches by Sue Bradbury

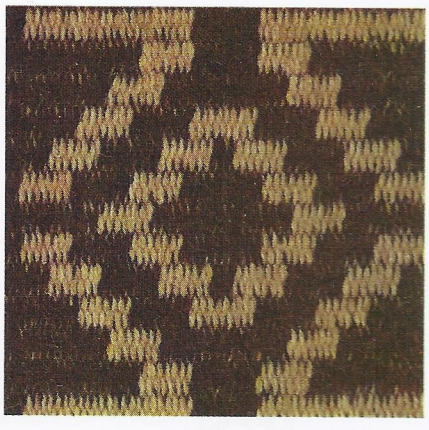
Thaxted Church, Essex.
One of the finest medieval buildings in the country, this church was rebuilt to its present glory in the fourteenth century, when Thaxted had grown rich through its cutlery and wool trade. John Betjeman has described its interior as "a miracle of soaring light . . . it is a joyful and uplifting church". Weaver: Peter Collingwood

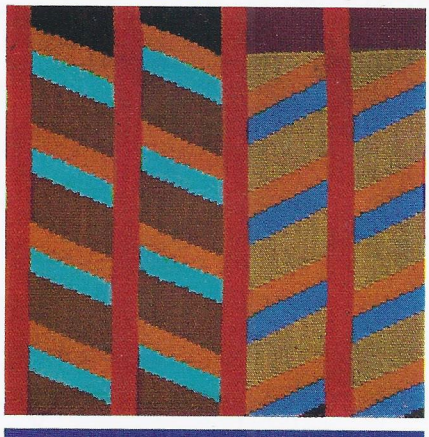


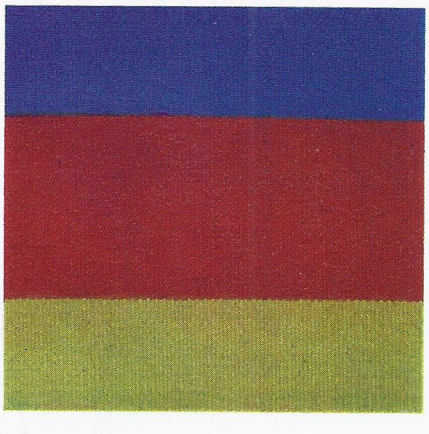


Samples of the rugs, which were not yet complete at time of writing. From left to right, work by John Hinchcliffe, Peter Collingwood, Roger Oates, Margaret Bristow, Vanessa Robertson and Norman Young, David Hill, Mary Farmer

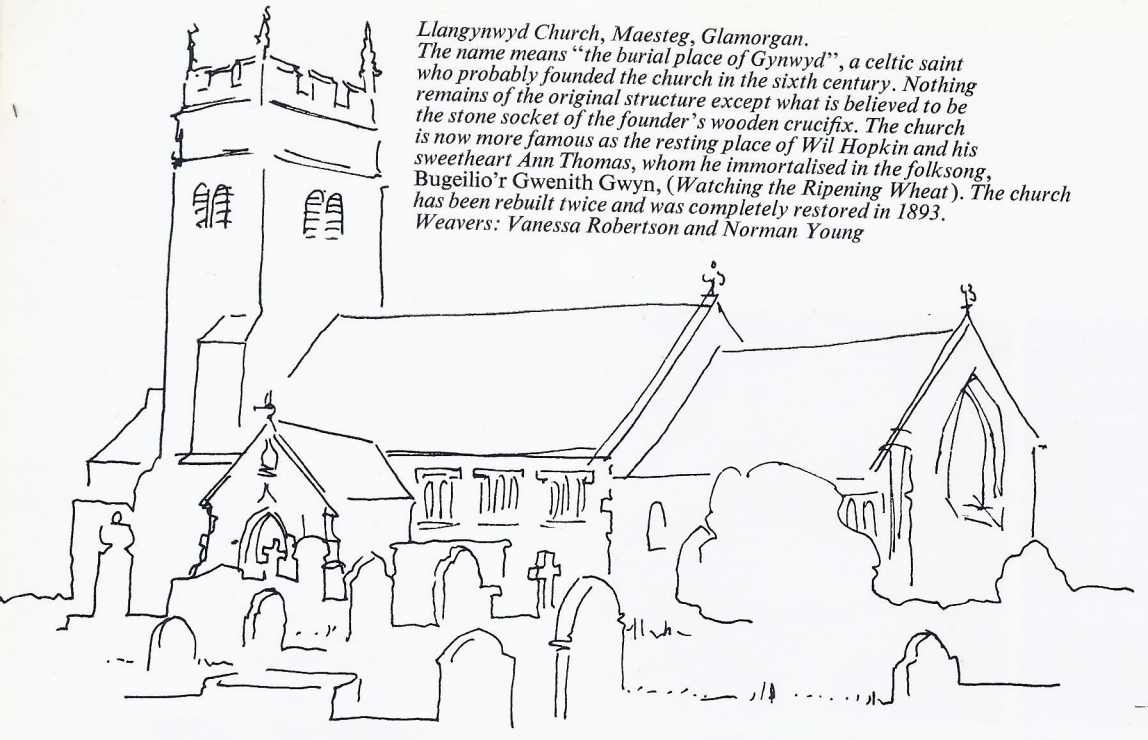


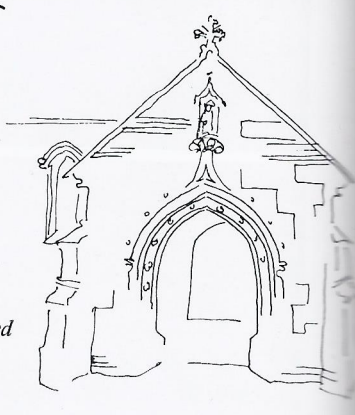




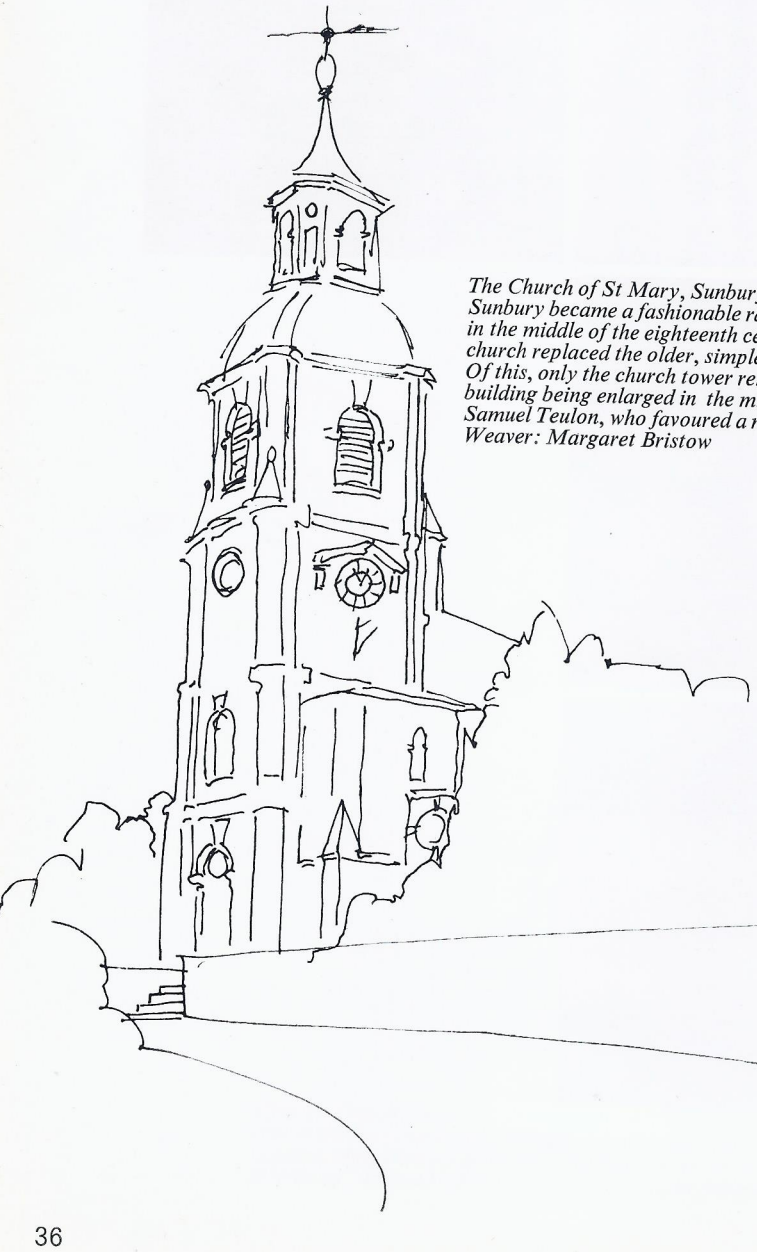


Llangynwyd Church, Maesteg, Glamorgan.
The name means "the burial place of Gynwyd", a celtic saint who probably founded the church in the sixth century. Nothing remains of the original structure except what is believed to be the stone socket of the founder's wooden crucifix. The church is now more famous as the resting place of Wil Hopkin and his sweetheart Ann Thomas, whom he immortalised in the folksong, Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn, (*Watching the Ripening Wheat*). *The church has been rebuilt twice and was completely restored in 1893.*
Weavers: Vanessa Robertson and Norman Young



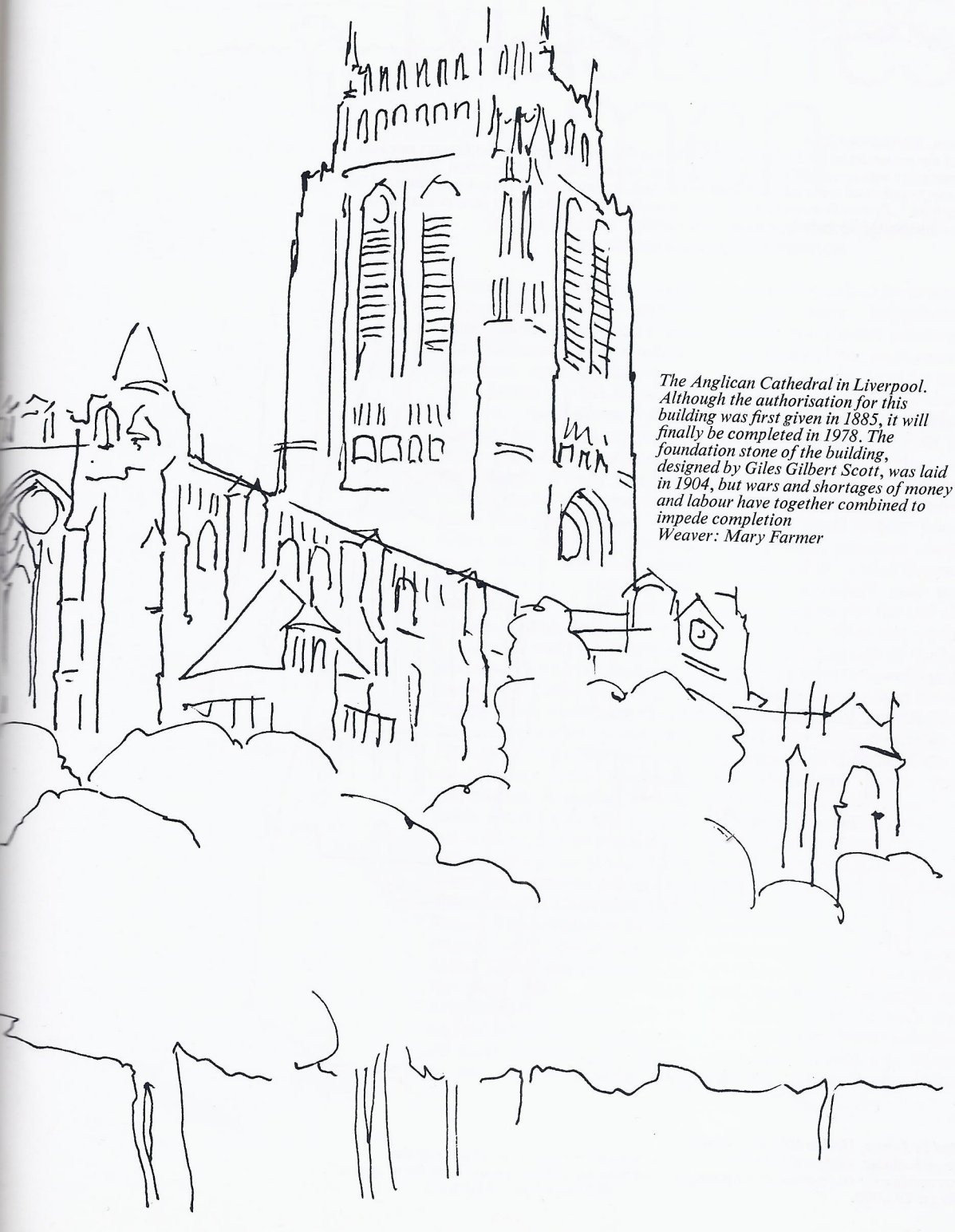


Doorway at Llangynwyd

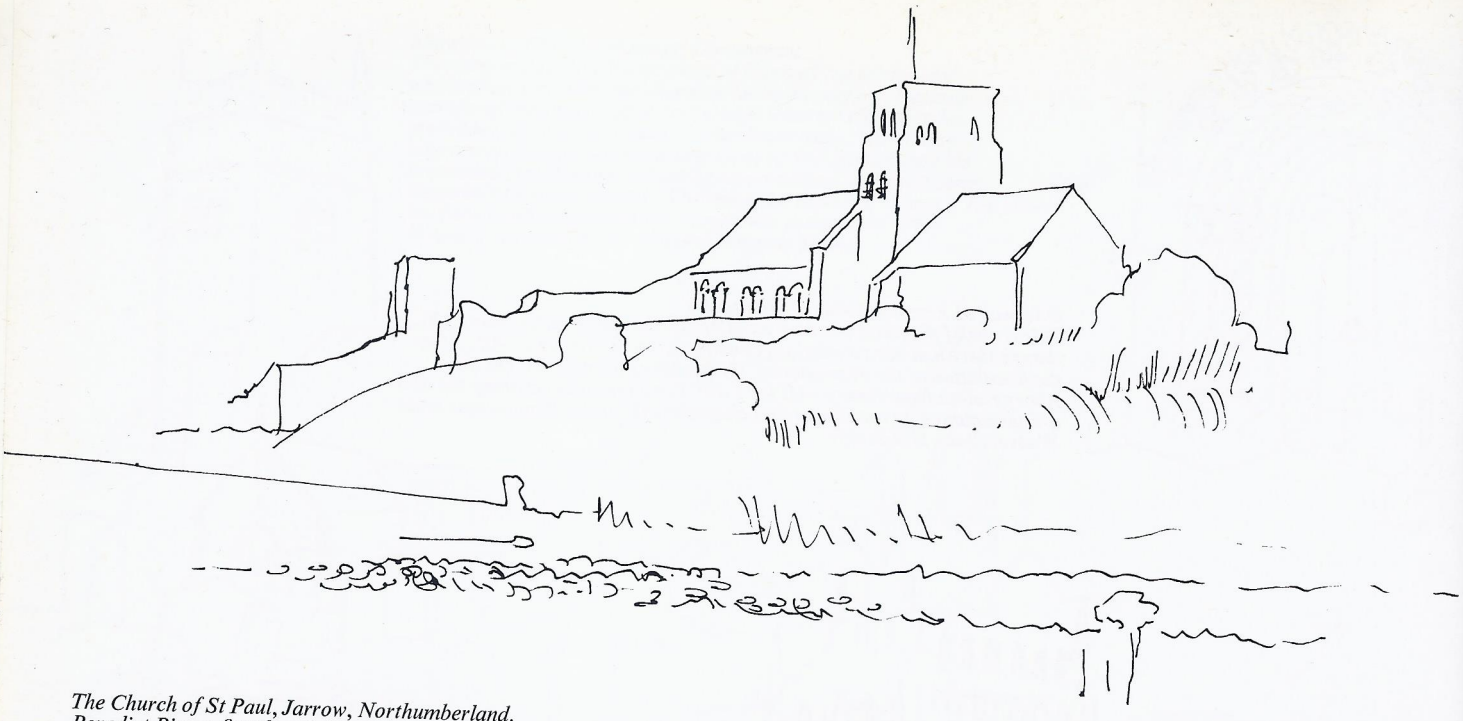


The Church of St Mary, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex.
Sunbury became a fashionable rallying point for hunts in the middle of the eighteenth century and an elegant church replaced the older, simpler one in 1752.
Of this, only the church tower remains, the rest of the building being enlarged in the mid-nineteenth century by Samuel Teulon, who favoured a more lush, Byzantine style.
Weaver: Margaret Bristow

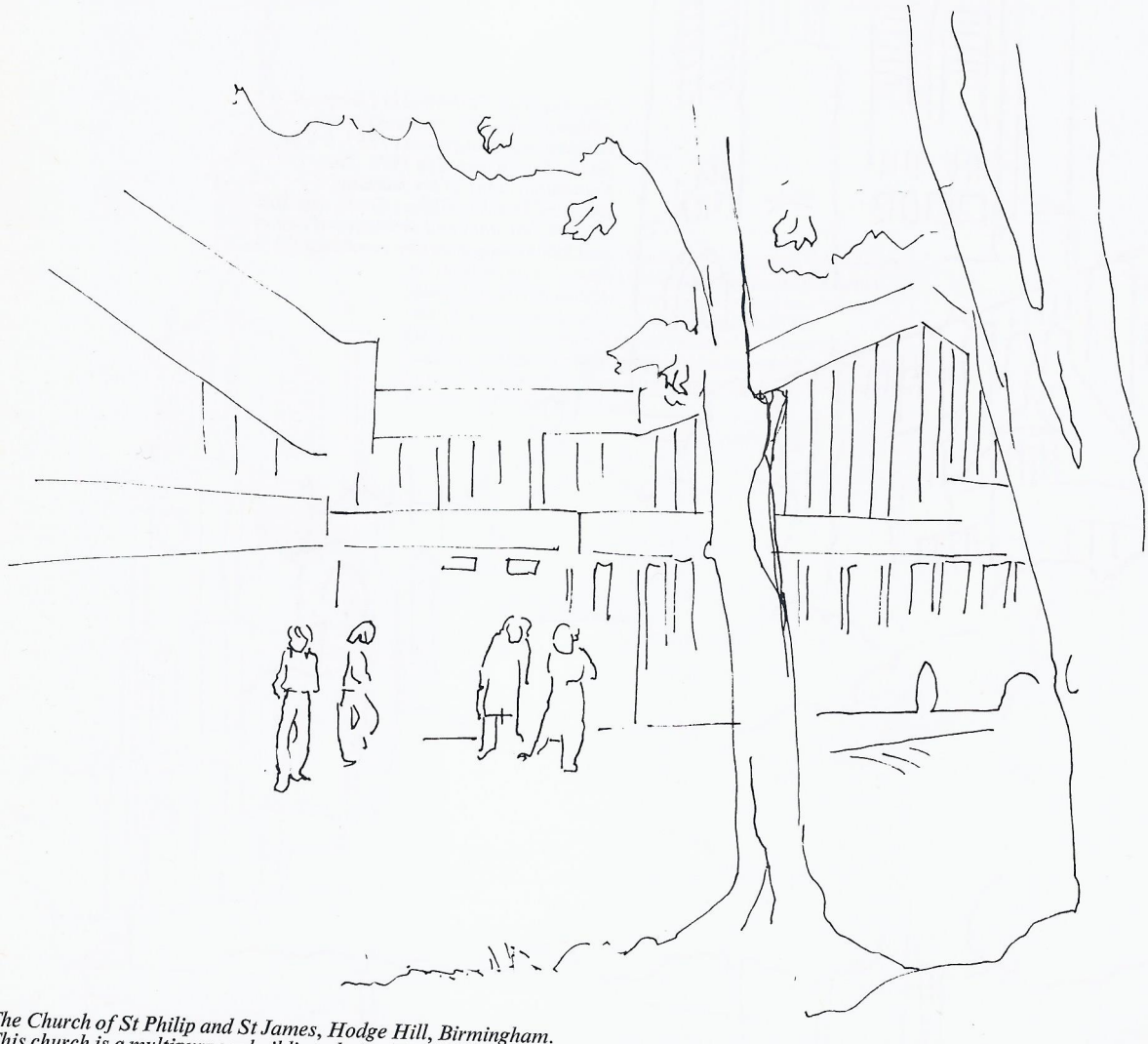
Doorway of Romsey Abbey in Hampshire.
This is one of the finest Norman buildings in Europe. It dates from 1120, though there had been a religious community on the site since 907. After the dissolution of the Monasteries, the people of Romsey bought the Abbey church from Henry VIII for £100. The huge columns lining the nave are surmounted by rounded arches characteristic of the Romanesque style
Weaver: John Hinchcliffe



The Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool. Although the authorisation for this building was first given in 1885, it will finally be completed in 1978. The foundation stone of the building, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, was laid in 1904, but wars and shortages of money and labour have together combined to impede completion
Weaver: Mary Farmer



The Church of St Paul, Jarrow, Northumberland.
Benedict Biscop first founded the monasteries of St Peter and St Paul in 681 and Jarrow's most famous son was the Venerable Bede. The community was re-established in 1074 and continued until the Dissolution. The church is Norman but its Anglo-Saxon foundation stone has just been unearthed, stating that the church was founded "in the fifteenth year of King Ecgfrith". Jarrow is more recently known as the home of the 1930s hunger marchers, and the tiny church is now surrounded by an industrial town.
Weaver: Roger Oates



The Church of St Philip and St James, Hodge Hill, Birmingham.
This church is a multipurpose building, designed to serve both the sacred and secular requirements of the community. It will adapt as readily for badminton or bingo as for Communion. Conceived as "a series of spaces", it was opened in 1968 and cost £90,000.
Weaver: David Hill